



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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Louisiana Makes the Grade

Baton Rouge -- The State Fire Marshal's Office announced today that Louisiana has been chosen by the National Fire Protection Association as one of ten states to receive the 2002 Risk Watch Champion Management Team Awards, designed to introduce NFPA's comprehensive injury prevention program for children in preschool through grade eight.

Using the Champion Award, each selected state will bring together a team of state level safety advocates from fire, police, public health and education to form a Champion Management Team. Each Team will select five communities in their state and will train local coalitions, representing the same groups as above, to implement *Risk Watch* in their schools. Louisiana coalition sites include SHREVEPORT, JONESBORO, PORT ALLEN, NEW ORLEANS, AND SLIDELL. In all, 100 classrooms will be starting the *Risk Watch* curriculum in school year 2002-03.

The *Risk Watch* curriculum addresses EIGHT RISK AREAS for unintentional childhood injury: (1) fire and burn prevention; (2) bike and pedestrian safety; (3) choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention; (4) poisoning prevention; (5) motor vehicle safety; (6) falls prevention; (7) firearms injury prevention; and (8) water safety. Since the program was launched in classrooms throughout North America in 1998, NFPA has documented 31 "Saves," incidents where children apply *Risk Watch* lessons to save lives.

The Fire Marshal's Office is proud to say that *Risk Watch* is currently being taught in our State Lab schools, to include LSU Lab, SLU Lab, NSU Lab, LA Tech's A & E Phillips Lab, and Southern Lab schools.

Hammond area schools have also incorporated *Risk Watch* into their curriculum.

For more information on the *Risk Watch* program, contact Jan Coussens, Public Education, Office of the State Fire Marshal at (800) 256-5452.

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